

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Re-examination and favorable reconsideration in light of the above amendments and the following comments are respectfully requested.

Claims 17-35 are pending in the application.

By the present amendment, new claims 36 and 37 have been added to the application.

In the office action mailed May 18, 2009, the Examiner required restriction between the following groups of invention:

- I. Claims 17-27, drawn to an orientable longitudinal structure;
- II. Claims 28-30 drawn to an endoscope; and
- III. Claims 31-35 drawn to a method of manufacturing an orientable longitudinal structure.

Applicants hereby elect the invention of group I, claims 17-27, for the purposes of prosecution. It is believed that new claims 36 and 37 should be examined with this group. The foregoing election is made without traverse.

An early action on the merits is respectfully solicited.

Should the Examiner believe an amendment is needed to place the case in condition for allowance, the Examiner is hereby invited to contact Applicants' attorney at the telephone number listed below.

A request for a one month extension of time is enclosed herewith. The Director is hereby authorized to charge the extension of time fee in the amount of \$130.00 and the excess claim fee in the amount of \$52.00 to Deposit Account No. 02-0184.

If the Director determines that an additional fee is due, he is hereby authorized to charge said fee to said Deposit Account No. 02-0184.

Respectfully submitted,

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Appln. No. 10/542,350
Reply to Restriction Requirement dated July 15, 2009
Restriction Requirement mailed May 18, 2009

Docket No. 05-494

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Date: July 15, 2009